South of Scotland
Next Generation Broadband

Southern Uplands Partnership

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Background

- South of Scotland Broadband - strategic partnership between partners shown below

- Sept 2011 - SoS submitted Local Broadband Plan to the Scot Govt

- Mar 2012 – Scot Govt launched National Infrastructure Plan – SoS to become part of this

- Aug 2012 - Scot Govt Step Change 2015 Programme agrees to deliver to 75% coverage of each Local Authority Area

- Oct / Dec 2012 – SoS Project Team receive approval from DGC and SBC for additional funding to aim to increase this coverage to approx 80-85%)

Current Timetable

- Sept 2012 - Scot Govt began Procurement Process
- Summer 2013 - Scot Govt appoint Supplier
- Autumn 2013 - Infrastructure rollout begins over a two-year period
- 2015 / 2016 – 80-85% coverage rollout to South of Scotland completed
- Ongoing - SoS Project Team working with Scot Govt on priorities as per Local Broadband Plan

SoS Local Broadband Plan

- SoS Project Team approval from SBC & DGC to extend rollout from 75% to 85%

- BT already supplying FTTC to Galashiels, Peebles, Innerleithen, with Dumfries, Stranraer and Kelso planned during 2013

- Once Procurement process completed, then supplier will identify where rollout will take place and which communities will be included

- SoS Project Team will then work with communities in the final 10-15% to identify alternative funding solutions to deliver Infrastructure in parallel to National rollout

Demand Registration

- SoS Demand Registration website includes survey to register demand – currently 2,837 respondents (Apr 2013)
- Four Streams
  - Businesses – 690 registered
  - Public Sector - 42 registered
  - Residents – 1,962 registered
  - Community groups – 143 registered
- This only represents 2.3% of all premises in South of Scotland registered
- The communities with the highest levels of registrants are the communities where individuals who live within the community have acted as a 'community champion' and knocked on doors to encourage people to register

Demand Registration (cont.)

- Demand Stimulation and Registration is critical to success
- SoS Broadband Project Team working with existing community and business advisers to stimulate the demand and encourage all to register
- Results of these surveys are fed directly into Scot Govt as part of the Procurement Process and Supplier Negotiations
- Suppliers look for large levels of demand to get a return on their investment
- Areas with the highest demand demonstrated will be more attractive to the suppliers in terms of timescales

To help SoS Project Team demonstrate high levels of demand across the SoS, Register for Next Generation Broadband:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SOSBroadbandRegistration

The SoS Project Team website is:
http://www.southofscotlandbroadband.co.uk

- Also Available on Facebook and Twitter

Benefits to Individuals

Having access to faster broadband will allow individuals and families to take advantage of the opportunities that are not otherwise possible:

- Education – Broadband allows access to a broad range of educational material, in a variety of formats, from toddlers to adults
- TV – From catching up on missed TV programmes via BBC iPlayer, faster broadband allows a huge range of entertainment possibilities.
- Music – streaming radio channels from around the world to cater to all musical tastes
- Interactive games – via your PC, many allow play with other players worldwide, via a good broadband connection

Benefits to Businesses

A good broadband connection for your business means there is greater capacity to send and receive data. You can receive and send far more information to your computer in the same period of time. This allows you to access the Internet, download files faster, send and receive e-mails quicker. Advanced, faster broadband offers even greater speeds and more possibilities. Other benefits include:

- Virtual working / Tele-working
- Video and data conferencing
- Virtual Private Networks (VPN)

Benefits to Communities

Having access to faster broadband does not just benefit individuals and Businesses, it can also benefit local communities too:

- Support for community life
- Allows local people to become more active within their community

by making it easier to be involved with local groups

- Quick access to updating websites, using the Internet as a good route for groups to keep their members informed
- Makes it easier for people to find out what is happening in their area e.g. many community groups produce websites for their residents

Community Broadband Scotland (CBS)

- A new £5m initiative to help kick-start community-led broadband projects in rural communities
- Led by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HiE) on behalf of Scot Govt
- To help communities in the final 10-15%
- Contact: info@communitybroadbandscotland.org
- CBS officer expected to be appointed for South of Scotland during April 2013

How do I know if my community will benefit from the Step Change 2015 programme?

- This is a difficult question to answer in the short term as we cannot give a definitive answer. The Scottish Government are currently in the procurement process to appoint a supplier to deliver the next generation digital infrastructure to the rest of Scotland (excluding Highlands & Islands).
- Once appointed, the supplier will be able to produce a rollout plan which will detail which communities will receive the infrastructure.
- Liaising with our partners, the CBS team will discuss your situation with you. If it is likely that your area will receive Next Generation Broadband through the Step Change Programme, then it is advised that your community should not opt for a CBS solution.

QUESTIONS?